of the study i.e. 1993 cotton costs in India were lower than countries like Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and USA.

(b) and (c) As per available data the comparative costs of spinning, weaving and knitting, the cost of spinning and weaving is higher in India with respect to Thailand, South Korea and Brazil but lower than USA and Japan. In case of knitting Indian costs are lower than USA and equal to those in Thailand. The comperative figures are as follows:

Countries	Cost of Spg. (Rs./Kg.)	Cost of Wvg. (Rs./Yard)	Cost of Knitting (Rs./Yard)
India	58.64	10.79	2.35
Thailand	56.45	8.34	2.35
South Korea . . .	53.63	8.84	2.32
Brazil	54.57	10.10	2.19
USA	73.70	12.10	3.92
Japan	72.13	16.34	..

(d) The Government of India have taken the following steps which are in on going process to upgrate competitive power of textile sector in the field of International Trade:

(1) The Textile Policy of 1985 recognised the difficulties of inadequate modernisation of Textile Industry and to obviate it, the Govt. instituted the Textile Modernisation Fund with IDBI with effect from 1st August, 1986 with an initial corpus of Rs. 750 crores with provisions for modernisation loan, special loan towards part of the promoters contribution for the weak but viable units. This scheme was in existenec till July, 1991.

(2) For upgradation of general competitiveness in the International Trade, Government of India have liberalised import of inputs at zero to concessional rate of duty including for import of capital goods in addition to general liberalisations of full convertibility of India Rupee, refund of duty draw back at enhanced rates, income tax exemption on export profits, credit facilities at concessional rate etc.

Encouraging the export of readymade Garments

7625. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there, is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage the export of readymade garments to other countries.

(b) if not, whether Government will consider to give aid and encouragement to small scale ready made garments units; and

(c) if so, what is the minimum and maximum amount of aid to be given to these small scale units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) In order to step up the export of readymade garments, Government

have taken several measures which have benefited the readymade garments industry, including the small scale readymade garment units. These include introduction of a unified market determined exchange rate system, convertibility of the rupee on current account, facilitating import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, increased availability of export credit, permission to retain foreign exchange receipts to the extent of 25 per cent in foreign currency account, encouraging participation by exporters in Buyer-Seller-Meets, Fairs, Exhibitions etc.

Export of banians

7626. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total exports of banians from the country:

(b) what was the foreign exchange earnings for the years 1991, 1992 and 1993;

(c) which state is exporting major portion; and

(d) what are the encouragement programme by Government to step up banian production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (b) The export figures of banians are not maintained separately. The exports of T. Shirts, under which banians are also covered, during 1991, 1992 and 1993 ware as follows hance earned

	Qty (Lakh P s)	Velu (Milllon US$)
1991	1161	229
1992	1443	304
1993	1930	459

Source : Apparel Export Promotion. Council Products.

(c) The major portion of cotton hosiery/including banian is exported from Tamil Nadu.

(d) In order to encourage the export of readymade garments including banian, Government have taken a number of steps which include introduction of a unified market determined exchange rate system, convertibility of the rupee on current account, facilitating import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, increased availabilty of export credit, permission to retain foreign exchange receipts to the extent of 25 per cent in foreign country account, encouraging participation by exporters in Buyer-Seller-Meets, Fairs, Exhibition etc.

Hike in Prices of cotton and cotton yarn

7627. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry has been adversely affected due to hike in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn:

(b) if so, the extent of price rise and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Central Govenment have received any representation in this context;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Govrenment thereon; and

(e) the other measures being taken by Government to check the rise in the prices of cotton and to provide yarn to handloom weavers at subsidised rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Textile Industry as a whole has not been affected by the hike in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn. However, due to increase in yarn prices between November, 93 and April 1994 reports of closure of weaving sections in powerloom and handloom sectors in some parts of the country were received. The main reasons of the steep rise